

The Great Commandment (Mark 12:28-34)

Proposition: Every person can understand what is important in life following the three actions encountered in our text.

- I. Realize the Question of Importance** (Vs. 28)
 - A. The Mentality of the Question (Vs. 28a-b)
 - B. The Meaning of the Question (Vs. 28c)
- II. Receive the Command of Importance** (Vs. 29-31)
 - A. The Focus of the Command (Vs. 29-30)
 - B. The Follow-Thru of the Command (Vs. 31)
- III. React to the Clarity of Importance** (Vs. 32-34)
 - A. Conforming Clarity (Vs. 32-33)
 - B. Kingdom Clarity (Vs. 34)

The Great Commandment (Mark 12:38-34)

When I was in college literary english, one of the most useful helps down at the bookstore was a spinnery rack looking thing next to all the thick literary works that I was assigned to read during a semester. The rack held thin pamphlets that were called Cliff notes. These big thick wordy paper backs were basically harded down into just the characters, events, themes and facts in those cliff notes pamphlets. Every thing that was essential and important that I needed to know in the thick book was nicely listed out in the thin book. I firmly believe that every person on this planet is searching for basically the importance or the meaning in life. Not looking for God but meaning. I believe every person will be confronted w/ God in that search and will accept or reject Him. We as believers point people to the Book. Bible Basic instructions before leaving earth. But if you wanted to offer I. Realize the Question of importance after being questioned, by priests, scribes, Pharisees, Herodians, and Sadducees, it seems as though the omniscient wisdom of Jesus to break through the

shroud of darkness over the eyes of a least one scribe.

A. The Mentality of the Questioner -

Something had happened in the mind of this scribe. I'm sure he came as with others with an argumentative head of steam, but as the pure river of truth began to stream from the lips of Jesus, he began to be convinced. The radio program I listened to used to ask agnostics if they were honest agnostics this man was an honest unbeliever that began at last to be convinced by Jesus. Clister McGrath dedicated to a trial of Oxford gave ear to Christian

B. The Meaning of the Question -

This question was a very relevant question of the day. Not only did rabbis expand the law with commentary after commentary and tradition after tradition but they tried to contract it to minimal principles as well. 613 commands of Moses Paul reduced them to 13, Isaiah 6, Micah 3, Isaiah 1, Habakkuk 2:1. This man is not asking what is first of 10, but what is most important what is the one thing, what is the main thing and the meaning of life. If we are ^{to God, what does he want?} agreeable

II. Reclaim the Command of Importance

Does Jesus give them something new off the Divine pressed in heaven, unheard by human ears? No - He gives them the word of God. Jesus Quotes the OT

1) ...to offer someone the cliff notes to the Bible, a concise comprehensive summary to the 66 books, 1189 chapters, 31,173 verses of the Bible then you can just point them to the words that Jesus confronts us with to night. Every person can understand what is important in life following the three actions encountered in our text.

2) ...gave ear to Christian response and became a believer. Josh McDowell of Apologetic fame in the Christian community was converted to Christ as he was seeking to dismantle the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Great Bible commentator and theologian Author Pink was a spiritualist (New Ager) speaker, and through the witness of scripture became a devoted follower of Christ!

3) Psalms 15:1-5 LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved. Isaiah 33:15 He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? Isaiah 56:1 Thus saith the LORD, Keep ye judgment, and do justice... Habakkuk 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

1) Deuteronomy 6:4-5 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. Leviticus 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.

2) Romans 13:8-10 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Deut 6:4-5 and Lev 19:18. ^{Gods to know Bible.} Note to Self. When life questions are

A. The Focus of the Command - This is the Shema = "Hear" first word in Deut 6:4. There is one Lord. Don't shy away from that! God is one, Father, Son, H/S. Not 1+1+1

but $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$ Jn 10:30 Jesus said I & Father are one. Mystery of the Trinity. W/all heart - thoughts feelings emotions, your soul word that means breath - your life. Mind - with your reasoning. Not blind devotion love God w/ intelligence, strength - your force actions energies. They are all to be focused towards a love for God.

B. The Follow-Through of the Command

The context of this liturgical passage is a love for those of the same creed or racial equality but here Jesus seems to be expanding the law to include all that have the mark of the image of God. You see a genuine love for God will not be a love that is self contained within a self contained one on one experience but with you an outlet of ours flow to those around us. Rom 13:8-10 ³ The priest and the scribe that passed through on the sabbath ^{Did not feel to love}

III. React to the Clarity of Importance

There it is in 71 billion words. What is the important thing in life VS 29-31. Now we are to react

to this very simple command.

A. Confirming Clarity - This man it seems was very excited with this answer. Thank God when we come to Jesus with honest questions we can receive answers. We see this scribe began to conform his thoughts to the command that Christ gave. I believe he hint at O.T. affirmations of Jesus divine deduction with his statement in vs 33 more than all whole... 1 Sam 15:22

Ps 51:16-17, Hos 6:6 Micah 6:6-8. What of our conformity. Ditch on both sides too busy no love

B. Kingdom Clarity - What is meant by "not far from the Kingdom". This man is facing truth honestly. No tight grip on some party or group affiliation. This man is ^{wh} testing his faith by what the Word of God says and not by what some religious group demands. "Do you have Kingdom clarity. Kingdom Priority How does your priorities measure up to what Kingdom priorities are? On anthem male" It is easy to let worship

IV. Close - To truly possess a love for God we must first receive his Son. 1 Jn 4:10. What of you that know the Lord? Is your life in balance w/ the essential requirement of God? Great commandment?

- 1) 1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. Psalms 51:16-17 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Hosea 6:6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. Micah 6:6-8 Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?
- 2) ...no love for God not intimacy. Or all worship and devotion and no genuine love for those around us.
- 3) ...to let worship become a matter of the Church building instead of a matter of the whole life."
- 4) 1 John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.